

E. Bathurst to Nicholas Girod, December 26, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

EARL BATHURST TO THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON.¹

¹ This despatch was sent by Lord Bathurst, secretary of state for war and the colonies, to the commanders of British forces abroad. It appeared in a bulletin issued at Jamaica, and in this form it reached Admiral Cochrane, commanding the British in the Gulf of Mexico, who sent a copy to the American commander. It was a roundabout route of information, and Jackson, who received it on Feb. 21. 1815, held properly that it did not justify him in disbanding his army.

Foreign Office, December 26, 1814.

My Lord. I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that Mr A S Baker² has arrived at this office, this morning from Ghent, with the Intelligence that a Treaty of Peace was signed between his majesty and the United States of America by the respective Plenipotentiaries at that place on the 24th Inst. It is the same time my duty to acquaint your Lordship that it is understood by the Treaty that hostilities will cease as soone as it Shall have beene ratified by the President of the United States as well as by the Prince Regent in the name and in behalf of his majesty.

² Anthony St. John Baker, who had been an attaché of the British legation in Washington, was secretary of the British commissioners at Ghent. In the Memoirs of John Quincy Adams, III. 126, under date of December 24, after describing the ceremonies of signing the treaty, he says: "We left them [the British commissioners] at half-past six o'clock. Mr. Baker had a carriage in the yard waiting for him to start for Ostend, where there is a

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vessel in readiness to take him over to England. It was agreed that the signature of the treaty should not be divulged here until to-morrow noon, so that Mr. Baker may have an opportunity to carry the first information of the event to the British Government.”

I have the honor etc

The following are understood to be the principal terms of the Treaty that has been Signed by the respective Plenipotentiaries at Ghent The Americans have waived any stipulation on the subject of maritime rights, as well as respects Compensation for Captives under the order in Council or on any other account. The Interest of the Indians, allies to Great Britain in the War, are provided for in this Treaty by a stipulation that they are to be restored to all their possessions rights and privileges which they enjoyed, or to which they were entitled antecedent to the year 1812. All the disputed questions of Territory to be referred to Commissioners to be respectively appointed under the Conditions named in the Treaty and until the differences respecting them are decided the Islands in the Bay Passamaquidody are to remain in the possession of Great Britain all other Conquests on both sides to be restored. It is understood that there is to be no renewal of the right of Fisheries on the New foundland Coast, and no trade to our Indian Possessions.